

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action dated July 16, 2003.

Claims 1-30 are currently pending in the application. The present amendment adds new claims 31-35 so that with entry of the present amendment the pending claims will be claims 1-35.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-30.

Claims Rejections Under 35 USC 102

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 9-22 and 24-30 under 35USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Joong et al. In light of the rejection, independent claims 1 and 17 are amended to include the feature that the connection is a live telephone connection including a voice channel, through which connection both control information for the service and a voice path pass through two service nodes and an intervening packet switch network.

Joong by contrast, does not teach a live connection. Rather he teaches “a distributed message center-architecture and topology” (Joong col. 2 lines 50 and 51). That is to say in Joong et al, the home network learns which roaming network the user is currently located on, and forwards voicemail messages and the like to the roaming network for subsequent retrieval by the user, specifically “to a message center optimally positioned with respect to the subscriber mobile station or associated with an initially receiving mobile switching center” (Joong col. 2 lines 56-58). In a second embodiment Joong et al provides a mailbox with the ability to make a local copy of itself at the roaming network. The whole point of Joong et al’s embodiments is a way

of overcoming what he perceives as the impossibility of providing a direct voice and control connection from a roaming network to a home network. The problem that Joong does not and cannot solve is as follows: the roaming user uses a control or signaling path to provide his CLI and identify himself to his home voicemail service. The signaling path is set up along with the voice channel. But when passing from one network to another the CLI is often lost, because the intervening networks are undefined. Thus the voicemail rarely receives the CLI and thus cannot identify the voice channel as originating with the legitimate voicemail user. Joong et al, and the prior art in general, do not know of a way of allowing the roaming user to provide his CLI in a secure way to the voicemail service at the home network so that the CLI can be associated with the voice path to the roaming user and correctly identify the voicemail user. Instead Joong attempts to get around the problem by forwarding the voicemail to a storage facility on the roaming network so that the roaming network can authenticate the CLI and provide the message via its intra-network voice path.

The present invention by contrast uses a service node at the roaming network which accepts both the CLI data and the voice path and links directly to a similar node at the home network via a defined packet network. The packet network sets up a unified path in which a single data packet channel carries both the data and the voice path. Thus the dissociation between the data and the voice does not occur and the user has direct access to his voice mail or to any other home located services.

It is believed that the independent claims as amended are allowable, particularly in light of the above comments. It is believed that the dependent claims are allowable as being dependent on allowable main claims, and the specific objections against the dependent claims are therefore not responded to individually.

Claims Rejections Under 35USC 103

Claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 103.

Comer et al provides a means of allowing roaming users to be identified on a roaming network and to be provided or offered services by the roaming network. It provides no hint or suggestion as to passing on services from the roamer's home network. It is therefore believed that claims 8 and 23 are allowable in their own right as well being dependent on allowable main claims.

It is believed that all of the matters raised by the Examiner are overcome and that all of the claims are both novel and inventive. No new matter is added by the present amendments.

Early allowance of the application is respectfully awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: October 27, 2003